



Church of Saint Bernard

1160 Woodbridge St. Saint Paul, Minnesota 55117 (651) 488-6733 Fax (651) 489-9203

March 13, 2020

Dear Faithful of St. Bernard's Church,

Due to the increasing number of confirmed cases of COVID-19/coronavirus in Minnesota, Archbishop Bernard Hebda this week announced his decision to dispense all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis from their obligation to attend Sunday Mass, until further notice. This is a rare dispensation and a decision he said he did not take lightly. A copy of the Archbishop's letter is on our parish website.

Despite the Sunday Mass dispensation, Archbishop Hebda provided some simple ways to stay spiritually connected to the Church and each other, like participating in a special fast this **Wednesday, March 18**, and other important ways to increase our spiritual devotion during Lent.

I am here to support your spiritual journey and continue delivering the latest updates during this challenging time. Here's how you can stay involved:

- Monitor our parish website and social media for prayer intentions, news and event updates.
- Watch/listen to the 10:30am Sunday Mass on our parish website.
- Participate in electronic giving to support our ongoing ministries and operations.

Right now, we are working together to determine the course of our large group gatherings. We are taking all precautions to sanitize and disinfect parish spaces in the sanctuary and the parish center. We are checking with vendors and local public health experts to make sure we have the best and latest information. We will prayerfully consider that information and together make prudent decisions, and communicate those decisions to you, our parish family.

We thank you for your support and faithfulness to our parish community. We are confident that together, with God's help and guidance, we will make it through this time of uncertainty.

Sincerely,

Fr. Ivan Sant
Pastor